From: Simmons, Denise
To: Miriam Goldstein
Subject: Re: Please speak out against BDS and unfair singling out of Israel and HP!
Date: Wednesday, April 18, 2018 1:43:10 PM

Dear Professor Goldstein,

Thank you for your email. So far, I have not yet seen an actual draft of the proposed resolution asking the City to cease purchasing HP equipment and supplies. I understand there's been a great deal of concern in the community about this matter – yet I must underscore that this will only appear on the City Council's April 23 agenda if one or more City Councilors sponsor it. We will not know if it is on the agenda until either a City Councilor publicly declares that they'll be sponsoring this (to my knowledge, this has not happened), or until the agenda is finalized by the Clerk's Office and posted online this Thursday evening around 5:30 pm (indeed, the latest I'm hearing is that the organization looking to have this sponsored may be recalculating as to when they think this can be introduced). I can, at the very least, confirm that *I* am not a sponsor of such a resolution.

There have been numerous passionate op-eds, emails, and social media posts condemning the City Council for rushing this to a vote without adequate opportunities for the public to weigh in, or even giving people a chance to read the resolution. Some people have condemned the City Council for seemingly being on the brink of passing this resolution, or for seemingly being on the brink of rejecting it. Neither scenario is accurate. While I understand the passion behind this matter, I must clarify that we do not yet actually have a resolution or policy order in front of us, there has been absolutely no debate about this amongst the City Councilors, and the City Council will not have an opportunity to take this up for consideration unless and until a resolution is sponsored by at least one of us and introduced at a public meeting. At this point, I am not yet certain if such a resolution will be introduced or not.

I appreciate your reaching out and sharing your views on this. I am currently reading up on this issue to be better informed, I am reviewing all the emails and letters coming in about this issue, and I am reaching out to our representatives in Congress to seek their input on an issue that is more international than municipal in scope. Should this matter end up on before the City Council – either on April 23 or at a later date – I will look forward to engaging in a thoughtful discussion and debate with my colleagues on the Council and then seeing how to best resolve this matter in a way that allows everyone to feel they have had a fair chance to be heard. Thank you.

E. Denise Simmons

From: Miriam Goldstein <miriam99@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 18, 2018 1:05 PM
To: Simmons, Denise
Cc: Joan Goldstein; Robert Goldstein; Gilli & Guy Rosenzweig; Michael Feigenson
Subject: Please speak out against BDS and unfair singling out of Israel and HP!

Dear Ms. Simmons,

I had the pleasure of shaking your hand on our first day of school this year at FMA, which I still remember!

I am a proud graduate of Harvard College (A.B. 1999) and a professor of Arabic literature at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. I have been happy to spend my sabbatical year with my family in this wonderful town of Cambridge, and we are all having an enriching year with my kids in wonderful Cambridge public schools and preschools (we love Fletcher Maynard!).

I was shocked and disappointed to hear about the current BDS resolution being considered by the Cambridge City Council.

Singling out Israel and HP, amongst all the nations, companies and conflicts in the world, and holding them to a unique ethical standard raises troubling issues about the Cambridge City Council. Thousands of American companies are working overseas and engaged in transactions that can be tied to questionable human rights practices; including numerous companies with Cambridge contacts.

The BDS movement is detrimental to achieving peace - and, indeed, calls for the destruction of Israel as a Jewish state! There are many people of goodwill, who are working to bridge the divide between Israelis and Palestinians. I am myself among these, and teach mixed classroom of Muslims and Jews in my hometown of Jerusalem. Boycotts, like the one under consideration, undermine these peacemakers, fuel polarization, and strengthen the hands of those who reject co-existence.

I hope that you will read about the BDS movement and perhaps some of the history of the state of Israel, if you have not already - a state that since its War of Independence in 1948 has been fighting for its life against the same type of terrorists who carried out 9/11 and who hope to extinguish the only true democracy and place where Jews, Christians, Muslims, people of color, LBGTQ and many others can find a safe place to live.

I believe that once you have read and learned about the situation, you will understand why the City of Cambridge should not align itself with such anti-peace and anti-Semitic movements like BDS.

Thank you for reading, and best regards.

Miriam
Prof. Miriam Goldstein
5 Union St.
Cambridge, MA 02139